strengthening of financial management were stipulated by IDBI while sanctioning the loan. The Group was regular in meeting its financial commitment to IDBI till the projects under implementation recorded cost overrun and Group faced liquidity crunch. With the financing of cost overrun being tied up, the overdues have since been cleared.

(d) IDBI has reported that the assistance was sanctioned to the Essar Group by it along with other financial institutions on merits.

(e) Does not arise.

Low priority of Aids by Government

2396. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the priority given to the Anti-AIDS campaign;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that low priority has been given to AIDS patients as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Proposal for an Airport at Gulbarga District in Karnataka

2397. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to have an airport at Gulbarga district in Karnataka;

(b) whether the officials of the Ministry have visited the district and held discussions with State Government officials; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) Government of India has given its 'No objection' to the develoment of an airport at Gulbarga by the State Government of Karnataka out of their own resources. A preliminary report has been prepared by a team consisting of officials of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and State Government after inspecting the site earmarked for the construction of the airport.

Increase in debt Liability

2398. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's debt liability has increased tremendously during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details of debt liability in respect of different types of loans and credits incurred by the country during the last three years; year-wise; and

(c) what are the main factors responsible for this increase?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) As per the latest available estimates, after reaching a peak of USD 99.0 billion on 31.3.95, external debt declined to USD 93.8 billion on 30.9.95.

(b) Breakup of external debt of the country during the last three years is enclosed. (*See* below).

(c) Recent changes in debt outstanding denominated in US Dollars is mainly due to variation in US Dollar exchange rates vis-a-vis other major currencies.

Statement

Break-up of India's external debt during the last three years

(US Dollar Million)

		31.03.1994	31.03.95 (Provisional)	30.09.1995 (Provisional)
1.	Multilateral	26263	28542	28267
2.	Bilateral	17450	20270	19112